



BY THE SUPREAME COUNCELL OF THE CONFEDERAT CATHOLICKS OF IRELAND.

THE deepe sense which wee haue of the sad condition, the Kingdome is at present reduced vnto, by the vnadvised proceedings of some *Prelats Secular & Regular*, & of some superiors of Regular orders in this Kingdome, together with our iust feares, that vnles a timely course be taken to stopp the violence of those vnarrantable wayes, the whole body of the *Confederats* may run irrecoverable hazard; These with the conscience of doinge an act most Religious, by safeguarding innocence (though noe comon danger were suspected) moued vs, to reflect on the duty wee owe to the publick, & on the straight tye which the oath of *Association* binds vs vnto, for its preservation, for discharge of our duty in both, & stopping the current of evils which we sadly behold flowing out of this source (though the lawes both diuine & naturall edge vs to vse all extremity in buslines of soe great concernment, whereon the safety & liues of the whole nation depends) yet being vnwilling to fix on any course which might seeme harsh (even to the offenders themselves) wee thought good, first to admonish & desire all & every the said *Prelats* of what degree soeuer, *Arch Bushopps*, *Bushopps*, *Abbots*, *vicars Generalls*, *Deanes*, & *Chapters*, *Provincialls*, *Priors*, *Guardians* & all other superiors, coniuring them by the sacred bond of the oath of *Association*, & strictly charging them, on their due allegiance to his Maiestie, his Crowne, his Kingdome, and vnto vs as Supreame Councell of the Confederat Catholicks, that they shall in noe wise molest any of their respective subiects, Priests or Religious, for perseuering in their loyalty or (in pursuance thereof) for approuing the late Cessation made by vs with the Lord Barron of *Iniquin*, and that they shall not commaund, sollicit, desire, or induce, by worde, writing, or deed, publicly or priuately, any of their said subiects to oppose the said Cessation, or any other our iust Commaunds, in pursuance of it, for the publick safety, or to infuse into the people any disobedience to our authority, vpon any pretence whatsoeuer, even of the declaration made or Censures now issued, or heereafter to be issued by the Lord Nuncio, and his four *Bushopps* on the same ground, From all which [as both groundless and vnlawfull] wee haue (according to the rule of sacred Canons,) legally appealed to his *Holynesse*, and by that our address, not only suspended the past sentences and Censures, but alsoe his *Graces* whole iurisdiction, and the said four *Bushopps* (if any they had) from proceeding any further therein, vntill his *Holynesse* pleasure bee knowne.

AND furthermore, wee require (by vertue of the said Oath, and vpon their allegiance) all inferiors of both Cleargies, *Dignitaries*, *Curats*, *Preachers*, *Confessors*, & all others, of what condition soeuer they be, that they shall not, on any pretence (euen of the said Censures) withdraw any Confederat from approuing the said Cessation, or obeying our orders and Decrees, made and to be made, in pursuance thereof, but rather endeaour, in their publick sermons, priuat Conferences, and vpon each occasion offerd, to confirme them in their allegiance to his Maiestie, and our iust decrees and orders.

BESIDES, wee thought it most necessary and iust, to receaue (as we doe by these, and from this instant) into the speciall, and immediate protection of the Crowne and of his Maiestie (the administration of whose rights, euen in this particular, is in our hands towards the Confederat Catholicks) all Church-men both *Secular* and *Regular*, of what degree soeuer, who hitherto have declared themselves faithfull and obedient to the Gouvernement of the Kingdome, and who haue therefore, and for opposing sinister and Dangerous practises against vs, and such as are in authority, beene heerebefore, are for the present, or shall heereafter be persecuted by their superiours, vexed, hindred, suspended, depriued or any way molested; Protecting and publishing to the world, that wee will vse all the extent of our power to suppress & defend their innocence heerein, against the Lord Nuncio and such their Superiours, vntill his *Holynesse* and *Generall Superiours* of *Instituts* (being sufficiently enformed) provide further, for the affaires of the Church, and due discipline of Regular orders in Ireland.

LASTLY, wee Declare vnto the said *Prelats* and *Superiours*, and likewise vnto all inferiors of either *Clergie*, that if hence-forth any Church-men be found seducing the people as aforesaid, or countenancing, either seducers, or the seduced, wee must, and will presently vpon notice giuen, proceede against such, as enemies of the common good, and iniurious to the Gouvernement, the suddainesse and greatness of the present fatall dangers necessitating vs thereunto.

HENCE it is, that none is to conceiue, wee intend heereby (since both are *per viam facti*, and for our naturall and necessary defence, in assuming into our protection the vniustly oppressed *Ecclesiasticks*) to vsurp an illegall power, iurisdiction, or vnarrantable prerogatiue, or to intrench vpon the immunities of the Church, being soe far from either, as wee are certaine, our decree in all, and every the aforesaid particulars, doth not swaue from the square of sacred Canons, from the consent of great *Diuines* and *Canonists*, from the practise of most *Catholick Nations* (and amongst the rest of *England* before the *schisme* without controulement of the *Clergie*) nay we are vndoubtedly possessed, the law of nature (which is aboueall *Canons*) doth approue and Commaund it so strictly, as wee cannot otherwise answer the trust reposed in vs, when by our negligence heerein, the liues and fortunes of the Confederat Catholicks would be exposed to most ineuitable and euident danger. Giuen at *Kilkenny Cattle*, the third day of Iune 1648. and in the Four and twentieth yeare of the Raigne of our Soueraigne Lord CHARLES By the Grace of God, King of Great Brittain, France, and Ireland.

Mountgarrett. Athunry, Donboyne. Lucas Dillon, Rob. Lynch, Richard Barnewall, Richard Euerard,
Richard Bellings. Patrick Gough, John Walsh, Gerrald Fennell, Patricke Brian, Robert Deuereax, George Commis.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

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